

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

3927 Lennane Drive, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95834
(916) 419-2510



CONTACT: John Carr
(916) 419-2525

September 30, 2010
PR 10-44

ABC Cites Clerks for Selling Alcohol to Minors *Decoy Operation Conducted in Salinas*

(Monterey County) - Investigators of the California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) cited three individuals for selling alcohol to a minor during a September 29, 2010 enforcement operation. The actions were the result of a compliance check operation run by ABC with assistance from the Salinas Police Department. During the operation, minors under the direct supervision of Investigators, attempted to purchase alcohol from 12 retail licensees in the city of Salinas.

The clerks who sold to a minor face a minimum fine of \$250, and/or 24 to 32 hours of community service for a first violation. In addition, ABC will take administrative action against the alcoholic beverage licenses of the businesses where alcohol was sold to a minor. That may include a fine, a suspension of the liquor license, or the permanent revocation of the license.

ABC worked closely with Sunrise House Prevention Youth Counsel in Salinas. Sunrise House is a non-profit youth organization promoting a drug and alcohol free life for area youth.

ABC is conducting the compliance checks statewide to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors.

In 1994, the California Supreme Court ruled unanimously that use of underage decoys is a valid tool of law enforcement to ensure that liquor licensees are complying with the law.

ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Agency Secretary Dale E. Bonner, a member of the Governor's Cabinet.